

[K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.] [21st April 1947]

concerned, they have not been in the movement in any way nor have they supported it in any way as they have their own opinion on this question. The support that I am giving to the Bill should not be taken to mean that we the Muslims of this country agree in any way with the objects of the movement of 1942 or in any way associate ourselves with the activities of the people who took part in that movement of 1942. I wish to make that point clear."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5 and clause 1 were put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, I move that the Bill be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(2) THE CRIMINAL TRIBES (MADRAS REPEAL) BILL, 1947
(L.A. BILL NO. 12 OF 1947).

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, I move—

'that the Criminal Tribes (Madras Repeal) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1947) "as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration at once.'

" This matter has a fairly long history. The classes that are concerned with this Bill feel rather strongly that a slur has been cast upon them. Of course in the old days when communications were hard and police stations were fewer, it was difficult to apprehend some offenders and so people belonging to certain classes who were generally described as having criminal tendencies were put under restraint by means of the provisions of this Act. Now, there is a feeling that there is more order and more peace and that a particular community or communities should not have a slur cast upon them by this wholesale stigma placed upon them. After full consideration, the Government felt that it would be better to repeal this Act and find some other methods or use the ordinary processes of the law for dealing with these classes of people. That is the reason for this Bill and I hope the House will take the Bill into consideration and pass it into law when the time comes."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, I am sure almost all the members of this House would congratulate the Government on bringing forward this Bill. I wish the Hon. Minister for Home Affairs had explained to the House why the provisions of the Bill as published in the Gazette under Rule 73 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules differ from those of the

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Bill introduced now in this House. The Bill was published on the 21st January 1947 in the *Fort St. George Gazette* to give effect to the intentions expressed by the Hon. Minister. It did not contain a very material addition which has been made by the Hon. the Minister and I wish he had explained why the Government felt the need for the addition. The addition runs 'except for the purposes of Section 3 of the Madras Restriction of Habitual Offenders Act, 1943.' We want to know why the Government feel the need for this exception. Section 3 of Act XXX of 1943 passed by His Excellency the Governor who announced it by a proclamation under Section 93 of the Government of India Act reads 'If the Provincial Government are satisfied that any person is a habitual offender, they may by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, declare that he shall be subject to any of the provisions of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924, and the rules made thereunder with such modifications and restrictions, if any, as may be specified in the notification and thereupon the provisions aforesaid as so modified and restricted shall apply to such person, as if he were a member of a notified tribe within the meaning of that Act.' My submission is I am not a lawyer. The position appears to me that you are repealing a certain Act and you want to take action under that very Act you are repealing, namely, the Criminal Tribes Act of 1924."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not think you are right. There is no question of repealing the Act of 1924. The present Bill seeks to take away Madras from the Schedule to the Criminal Tribes Act and the provisions of the Act will be there and will apply in respect of habitual offenders."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" As a lay man I wanted to be sure about the position, as there was a difference between the Bill before the House and the one published in the Gazette.

" The next point is the Government maintain a large number of criminal settlements and they are being managed for the past two years, I think, by the Police department. I would like to know whether it is the intention of the Government to abolish the criminal tribes settlement or to make use of them for the purpose of dealing with habitual offenders. Secondly I want the Government to consider whether the police officials are the people who are fit to reform these people. I know the change of administration was effected during the Adviser regime. For a number of years the criminal tribes settlements were managed by the Commissioner of Labour and for some reason during the Adviser regime, the management of the settlements was transferred to the Inspector-General of Police. I should like to know from the Government whether the use of the Criminal Tribes Act is to be restricted only for purposes of dealing with habitual offenders and whether the police are the persons most competent to reform these people."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Bill does not say so."

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* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ The settlements existed because of the Criminal Tribes Act and in that way I connect the criminal tribes settlements with the Act. When once that Act does not apply and their provisions are to be used only with reference to habitual offenders, I would like to know the intentions of the Government with reference to the reformatory process, about which the Government must be equally anxious in the case of habitual offenders. The Hon. Minister is also in charge of the Police and he may have great faith in their capacity to maintain law and order. But I submit, Sir, that I doubt whether they have the capacity to reform criminals. These reformatory settlements should be entrusted to social service bodies who will approach the criminals with a view to better them, to improve their character and to make them take to peaceful avocations. It is not fear of being punished under the Habitual Offenders Act that must form the basis of reformation for these people. I would like this point to be brought to the notice of Government. I do not know whether the Hon. the Minister for Home Affairs and Law knows that this transfer has taken place from the Commissioner of Labour to the Inspector-General of Police. There is the latest report issued by the department and it contains an account of a good deal of very useful work done even by the police official. Whatever the agency may be, the motive with which reformation is carried on is more important in matters of reformation like this. I would like the 4 p.m. Hon. Minister to consider, even for these habitual offenders, whether these settlements, if they are to be retained, should be managed at all by the Police officers. Is it not wise to entrust them to organizations interested in social service? This is a question that has been considered at great length by the Government of Bombay. They have offered their management to social organizations, because they were aware—they were conscious—that the Police were the persons least competent to effect any reformation. It is the fear of the law, of the enforcement of the law, or, if I may say so, it is the fear of the rod and the law—here the rod itself—that cannot make a man reform himself. I do not think, Sir, even the Hon. Minister for Home Affairs believes that that is the best way of reformation. Then, Sir, if these criminal tribes settlements are to be retained—call them reformatory settlements, I hope they will be called so after the Act is removed from the purview of the Provincial statute—will admission into these settlements be permitted on a voluntary basis? Will the children of these so-called criminal tribes be taken care of either by the Police department if that department continues to manage these settlements or by the Commissioner of Labour in order that they may be educated and made to pursue peaceful avocation? All these problems naturally arise when we consider this Bill. The Government are perfectly justified in bringing forward this Bill, but they should also look to the reformatory side of these habitual offenders—even if we call them habitual offenders if not criminal tribes.

“ Then, Sir, some time ago, the previous Ministry appointed a committee called the Aboriginal and Backward Classes Committee. You may remember, Sir, that I gave notice of a resolution,

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and before that resolution could come up for discussion, the Government took the clue and on their own volition appointed a committee to deal with that problem. One of the terms of reference to that committee was—

“To consider and report on the changes necessary to be introduced in the policy relating to the administration of the Criminal Tribes Act with particular reference to the question of tackling the nomadic habit prevalent among several of the tribes and on such other matters as may be germane to the uplift of the said tribes.”

I hear, Sir, whether the information is correct or not, I am subject to correction, that the work of this committee has been suspended by this Ministry. I hope, Sir,”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I am afraid the hon. Member is making a budget speech.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“No, Sir. I would like, Sir, as this forms part of the terms of reference to that Committee”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“How is it relevant to the Bill?”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“When you repeal an Act, Sir,”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“The Bill does not contemplate any proposals for reformation. It simply removes or amends”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“The intention of the Criminal Tribes Act was also to reform them. That is why these settlements are conducted, and to that extent I feel, Sir, I am justified in referring to the terms of reference to that Committee.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“All right. I do not mind.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“I would like when that Committee's report is out, the suggestions I have ventured to make in connexion with the reformation of these habitual offenders—I do not call them criminal tribes any more—will also be taken into consideration, and I hope that these unfortunate habitual offenders will reform themselves under better auspices than the Police. With these words, Sir, I support the consideration of this Bill, and I hope that the suggestions made by me will be borne in mind.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“Sir, I welcome the enactment of this Bill.”

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—“Any more in this Bill, Sir? What is the principle of this Bill? Taking away the Criminal Tribes Act, what are you going to do with them? Are you going to deal with them as habitual offenders still under the same old law? What is it?”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“May I take it that the hon. Member has finished his speech?” (Laughter.)

* SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“Sir, it gives me great pleasure to support this legislation as it liberates from a century-old thralldom a large section of the community known as criminal tribes. As my hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao pointed out, the term

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criminal tribes is a misnomer. They are as civil as any other section of the population. On account of the legal disabilities, people coming under these criminal tribes have been subjected to all kinds of difficulties. They have not been able to even eke out their livelihood. There has been a system of forced labour. The people belonging to the criminal tribes have not had freedom to go about and earn an honourable living for themselves. They have been forced to work in the houses of Government servants and especially for the police officers who are supposed to take charge of them. Even now, Sir, in the villages these people have got to go and take their beds in the police station. While they are forced to go and sleep there, because they are regarded as criminal tribes, they have also to do there every work, every service, that is allotted to them not only by the Police Inspectors and other Police officers, but also by Revenue officers like Tahsildars and Deputy Collectors. I know thousands of these people. I have moved amidst them in Chingleput district, Nellore district and Chittoor district. These people live on uncertain occupations. Some of them go about tending geese. They have no homes. Some of them are still in migratory condition. They have no settled occupations. Some of them have taken advantage of educational facilities. Some have become industrial workers. Those who have become educated are really taking a living interest in the community to which they belong. I know of a particular instance where a worker belonging to the community has resigned a decent appointment and has been going about with the Aborigines committee from place to place, district after district, studying the present economic condition of the people who were regarded as criminal tribes. Even now, Sir, even after the enactment of this legislation, even after hope and succour have been brought to them, Police persecution has not ceased. I have brought to the notice of the Government and the Hon. Minister in charge of Law and Order hundreds of cases where Police Sub-Inspectors and Circle Inspectors have persecuted the poor people belonging to these communities. I know of a recent instance—I have brought it to the notice of the Government—where a man belonging to this community, who is attached to a Police Inspector, was not invited to a particular marriage in the community. The Inspector went to the spot where the marriage was taking place, caught hold of the marriage couple about to be married, and had them shut up in a room in the Police station."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think he did well." (Laughter.)

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" This reform has been long overdue and it is not enough if these people are given the freedom from the age-long thralldom. Their methods of living should be improved. They live in the backyards of landholders. They live at their mercy. They have no definite occupations. It is no use of giving them the freedom contemplated in this enactment. We have submitted large schemes to the Aborigines committee. Poramboke lands available should be allotted to them. Agricultural colonies should be started, and special educational facilities should be given to them so that the people who belong to this community

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may grow as an economically independent community and a useful community. My friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao referred to the criminal settlements. These criminal settlements were really made criminal by the Police officers who were in charge of these settlements. Some of these settlements have been entrusted in the past to Christian missionaries, who liberally converted them. I know, Sir, when strikes break out, it is from these criminal settlements—not only in this Presidency, but in the Bombay Presidency also, where they are called *harinchikaris*—hundreds and thousands are supplied as blacklegs. I have known an instance where in a huge strike, these *harinchikaris*, these so-called criminal tribes—residents of criminal settlements—refused to work as blacklegs. For that they were beaten, and taken to work as blacklegs. In spite of that, they refused. They are as self-respecting as anybody else. It is therefore necessary that Government should take very active steps to see that work is provided for them, educational facilities are given to their children, and that the community is enabled to develop as an economically independent community. A committee was appointed by the Government. One of the early steps taken by the previous ministry was to look into the conditions of these aboriginals and other allied communities. A committee was appointed, and that committee went about touring from centre to centre to find out the present economic condition of the community and their immediate needs. I was very sorry to hear that the activities of the committee have been orally suspended. It is very necessary, Sir, that the activities of that committee should be restored, and that the committee should be given every facility so that the interests of these people may be protected. Sir, this is a very essential measure. This will benefit thousands of people of this community who have been suffering all along from the Criminal Tribes Act. As this is a progressive measure I am sure every section of public opinion in this House will support it.” 4-15 p.m.

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—“ Sir, I want to say a few words in support of this measure. I sponsored a similar measure in 1938, but I was asked to withdraw it because, I was told, the Police were against it. I am very glad to see that the Government of their own accord have brought this measure to-day. I understand the previous sanction of the Governor-General has not been taken to bring forward this legislation under section 108 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Whatever that may be, under section 109 of that Act, sanction may be asked for to ratify the Act now and since the hon. Law Member is going to Delhi next week, I hope he will use his good influence there to get the approval of the Central Government. (Interruption by the hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan.) He says the previous sanction has been obtained, and I am glad, now there will be no difficulty in passing this legislation.

“ As I said earlier, I wanted to sponsor this measure in 1930, as Mrs. Cousins was interested in the improvement of the condition of these tribes. But as it was thought by the Police that it would be impossible to reform these people without this Act, the matter could not be pursued. Now, Sir, it is well known, the conditions under which these people live are really deplorable. So

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far as Bellary is concerned, I have seen members of this tribe being asked to sit in taluk office compound in hot sun all day where there is no shade or tree at all. It was only last week I had been to a village in my district, and there I found members of this tribe sitting between two villages, in hot sun where there were not trees at all. That is the way in which these people are being treated; and I am glad civilized society has come forward to get rid of this Act. The caste Hindus were responsible for the lot of Harijans till now. In this case it is the Central Legislature that has passed this enactment in 1924 empowering local Government to frame rules for enforcing provisions. Now the Central Legislature also is moving in the matter. They also have recognized the injustice done to these criminal tribes. They have recently passed Act I of 1947 amending the provisions of that atrocious section 23 of the Criminals Tribes Act, which prescribed a sentence of transportation for life on a third conviction, to one of imprisonment. I have seen judges who try these cases for a third conviction, even enough it be for theft of a fowl, or a small thing worth eight annas or one rupee, feeling uneasy, and much against their conscience in sentencing these poor people to transportation. And when they subsequently made representations to Government about the inequity of the punishment they only got the reply from the High Court that they could not interfere, and that it was a matter for fresh legislation. I am glad the Central Legislature has seen the gravity of the section and amended it to a punishment of not more than seven years' imprisonment. I am glad they have given the judge discretion to award a punishment of imprisonment of any term not exceeding seven years.

"I may also inform this House that a member from this province, Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar, has introduced a Bill in the Central Legislature to repeal this enactment altogether. So I see the Central Legislature also is moving in the right direction. As observed by Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and Mr. Sarma there is something more to be done besides repealing this Act. Now these tribes are really under bondage and without freedom. When freedom is given to them, you must see that they are properly started in life, they get proper employment and proper means of livelihood. I see, advisedly it is put in one section of this measure, that a notification will be made, upon which this repealing Act will come into operation. I think, within that time, it may be three months or six months, I would request Government to take adequate steps for giving these people proper avocation to eke out their livelihood honestly."

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to say a few words in support of this measure. I am glad the hon. Minister has stated in his speech in introducing this Bill the circumstances under which the Act was made applicable to this province. But I am sorry to state, that whatever may be the original intention, in the practical application of the Act, very many inhuman atrocities have been committed, and therefore it is our bounden duty to see that this Act is not made applicable to the people of this province at all.

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[Sri N. Ranga Reddi]

"The first abominable feature in this Act is, without any evidence being recorded in a court of law, the personal freedom of a man could be restrained. He can be asked to appear in a Police Station at a particular hour, and this is done so, not because he has done any act against the State or any citizen, but because he is born in a particular tribe or in a particular family. When such is the case, it is for the members of this House to consider whether such an enactment should ever be allowed to remain any more on the statute book. Many will agree that if a person's freedom is to be restrained, it should be done on the ground that he has done something wrong or is about to do it; but not on the ground that he is born in a particular family or tribe. On that one ground alone the Criminal Tribes Act should be repealed forthwith. Mind you, Sir, whether at the time of the enrolment of a man's name in the list or at the time of removal, that man is not given an opportunity to have his say. All this is done on the basis of the police report. I am yet to see a District Magistrate who says, 'No, this man should not be brought under this Act.' As Mr. Suryanarayana Rao said, these people could be dealt with under the Madras Habitual Offenders Act. I know there is a difference between the two Acts. In the Madras Habitual Offenders Act we have to bring in some evidence to show why the freedom of movement should be curtailed. But even under that Act there is an obnoxious provision. No time limit has been fixed with regard to the "three convictions of non-bailable character". That is, no time has been fixed, within which these convictions should have taken place. Supposing a man has been convicted of non-bailable offences thrice within a period of fifteen or twenty years, is he to be put as a habitual offender on that score? I submit if a man's freedom is to be curtailed, it should be done so only after an open trial, in an ordinary court of law and after giving the man concerned an opportunity to defend himself. I submit therefore the sooner this Government brings forward a repealing measure even with regard to the Habitual Offenders Act the better. Otherwise there is still scope for abuse or harm to these people.

"Sir, I have nothing more to add. I only congratulate the Minister for having brought this Bill. I know very many people have been brought under the purview of this Act. Even people who have got plenty of property, even respectable people have been brought under this Act, simply because the Magistracy or the Police thought they should be brought under that enactment. That was what had happened in Cuddapah district. Very important and powerful Reddis, who own large properties in the district have been brought under the definition of gang. That way, this Act had been made applicable to those to whom it should not have been made applicable. I therefore welcome the move that this obnoxious measure should no longer be made applicable to these people."

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I shall first deal with my hon. Friend the member from Kistna. Evidently he has not read the Habitual Offenders Act though he is a very active practitioner and has even been a Public Prosecutor."

4-30
p.m.

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I am not conscious of any member from Kistna having spoken.”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ You think, Sir, he belongs to your district. He has moved away.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I have not at all been conscious of his speech. He only put some questions.”

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ He called it a speech.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I wanted to gag him further.”

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I want the hon. member to refer to the Habitual Offenders Act. It has nothing to do with criminal tribes but merely with habitual offenders. While His Excellency the Governor passed legislation under section 93, evidently he thought it was a convenient way of treating habitual offenders by referring them back to Criminal Tribes Act which gave certain powers. Therefore, as long as that Act remains, that Act has to be safeguarded. That is why a section in this Act, safeguarding the application of this Act to that Act, has been introduced. The whole question of criminal tribes goes with the repeal of this Act.

“ The hon. member Mr. Suryanarayana Rao made various suggestions. I know at one time these criminal tribes settlements were under Labour department. And, as he said, in Bombay, some of the social service organizations are in charge of the settlements. With regard to Kallar reclamation, schools are run for the benefit of the children of the Kallars, but they also are under the Police department. The hon. member rather sneered at the idea that I have been defending the Police. It is really due to the fact that any man in my position who wants the loyalty of the forces has got to defend them, for the simple reason that otherwise discipline will suffer. After all, hon. members should realize that they are only members of the services and they have no seats in the Legislature. Unless the member in charge of the department is able to defend them, they will find it difficult to give real service which you expect of your servants. In fact, if they go wrong, it is for me to deal with them; it is for the Government as a whole to take the action which they deem necessary for the purpose of bringing them into proper order and to get the rightful service that you expect of them. I can tell hon. members here that, as long as I am responsible for the department in my charge, if there is any fault in anything that is done, I am prepared to bear it on my shoulders which are, I think, broad enough to bear such responsibilities. But it does not mean that I am giving a free hand to the police, because, after all, no Government will be worth their name as Government unless they are able to pull up their subordinates when they find anything goes wrong.”

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ Is the Hon. Minister taking responsibility for the use of tear-gas on the women workers the other day? ”

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I take the responsibility. The hon. Member need not be solicitous about it. For anything done by the police, I take the responsibility. If the

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hon. member wants to find out the reasons, he can find them cut from me if he has got the patience and the industry to find out why a particular thing happened."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister mean that we in this House should not criticize the atrocities of the servants of the Government? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister only says : ' Do not sneer '."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am glad, Sir, you have caught my point.

" With regard to the Kallar reclamation schools, the Government are considering whether it will not be possible, now that the Criminal Tribes Act is going, to hand over the schools to the Education department, because most of the teachers in these schools are borrowed from the Department of Education and advice also is taken from the District Educational Officers concerned in the matter of running these schools. Perhaps, it would be better when this Act goes out of the statute book that the District Educational Officers be made responsible for the educational work among the Kallars.

" With regard to the question of criminal tribes settlements, the question will be considered by the Government as a whole. If the Government feel that the better authority for controlling these settlements will be the Labour Commissioner or the Labour department or even some social service organization, the Government will consider how best these settlements could be run.

" Mr. President, I was glad my hon. friend from Bellary referred to the question of sanction by the Governor-General. In a matter relating to concurrent legislation, as he himself pointed out, the Governor-General's sanction has got to be obtained. We have obtained that sanction. Besides, there is another safeguard in the working of the constitution, namely, such bills as relate to matters on the concurrent list are reserved for the consideration of the Governor-General before they become law."

The motion that the Criminal Tribes (Madras Repeal) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration at once was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I now move, Sir—
' that the Bill be passed into law. ' "

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There is one other item on the agenda, the resolution on linguistic provinces."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I submit, Mr. President, that the matter may be taken up on the next official day."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know why the Hon. Member wants that to be done? "

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K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" My reason is this. A similar resolution is being discussed in the other House. We have to decide our policy in this matter. Unless they decide the matter in the other House, it is difficult for us to take part in this resolution. I would request you and the Government also to take this up on the next official day."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" How does the Government feel about it? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As the Hon. the Leader is not here, speaking on his behalf, I think, Sir, he will have no objection to taking it up on the next official day, in view of the request of the Hon. the Leader of the opposition."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Then this matter will be taken up on the next official day."

" I wish to point out to hon. Members that the office has not got the local addresses of hon. Members and therefore it finds difficult to send copies of agenda, resolutions and questions to hon. Members. I would request hon. Members to make it convenient to intimate their local addresses to the office. I wish that this defect may be remedied soon."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Even with regard to those who have given their local addresses, copies of questions, etc., are not sent."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" They are being sent."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I can bear witness to the fact that they are not being sent. At least I have not been receiving these papers at my local address even on the day previous to the meeting."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, we have already given our addresses in the Government House. Until we change our addresses, that address may be continued and rooms will be reserved for us. That was the understanding. What we find is, that since we took up our quarters in the Government House, we are not getting the papers. We have already intimated to the Assistant Secretary our Madras addresses and we thought it was sufficient."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There is no difficulty in the case of those who have already given their local addresses. But there are others who have not given their addresses."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" But even those who have given their addresses are not getting the papers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That will be looked into."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, what is likely to be the official business before we adjourn? "

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I think, Sir, that the Tungabhadra Irrigation Bill and the Malabar Irrigation Cess Bill will be ready for consideration by this House after they are passed by the Lower House. Tomorrow the Assembly will be discussing the resolution on linguistic provinces. Any other work which will be finished by the Assembly will come up here. But I am not in a position to make any certain statement on this because, I do not know when the linguistic provinces resolution will be finished in the Assembly. I hope it will be over tomorrow afternoon. Two Bills will be ready to be introduced in this House on the next official day. Wednesday is a non-official day and the House will take up resolutions and bills of non-official members."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" For how many days will this meeting last? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is too much for anybody to say."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Till the 25th."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The other House is making serious attempts to finish the work tomorrow. "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think, it will finish to-morrow, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If it does, we can finish our work on Thursday or on Friday.

" The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd April."

The House then adjourned.

V.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. A pamphlet on ' Thrift and Saving. '

2. The Bar Councils and Legal Practitioners (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.

3. The Criminal Tribes (Madras Repeal) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.